



# TROPIMUNDO

ERASMUS MUNDUS MASTERS COURSE IN TROPICAL BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

**Sunanda KODIKARA ARACHCHILAGE, RUH Local Coordinator**

Dr. Sunanda is currently working as a senior lecturer at the Department of Botany, Faculty of Science, of University of Ruhuna. First, he joined the department as a probationary lecturer in 2012. He started a Master in Science (ECOMAMA: Ecological marine management) at Vrije Universiteit Brussels, Belgium in September 2009, and graduated in September 2011 with a greater distinction. Immediate after the graduation, initiated his Ph.D study in the field of mangrove eco-physiology in 2013 and completed in 2018. Sunanda has now started research in the fields of stress physiology, phytoremediation, serpentine soils and coastal invasive plant species and ethnobotanical management strategies. Also he is in the process of making innovative products and got first place for microscope in-built camera in the innovation exhibition, University of Ruhuna, in 2017. Sunanda has already valorized some food products, for example, antioxidant rich, dietary fiber rich, starchy flour for low-income coastal dwellers. In term of research activities, he is collaborating with Belgium, UK, Pakistan, Tanzania and Malaysia. Dr. Sunanda has supervised about 28 bachelor degree theses and currently supervising one master student (TROPIMUNDO Master programme) and two M.Phil students. In the meantime, he contributes for some governmental bodies like Ministry of Environment; reporting on current situation of mangroves and salt marshes in Sri Lanka, and non-governmental organizations e.g. Small Fisheries Federation of Lanka (SFFL); establishment of mangrove museum, by giving his expertise knowledge. In addition, Sunanda is currently contributing for “active citizenship programme”, which aims at producing role models in the society. For that, he received several international level trainings. Dr. Sunanda teaches courses like, Coastal Ecology and Biodiversity, Advanced Plant Ecology, Advanced Plant Physiology, Stress Physiology, soil-plant relationships in the department.

<b>1</b>	<b>Family name</b>	Kodikara Arachchilage	
<b>2</b>	<b>First name</b>	Sunanda	
<b>3</b>	<b>Place and Date of birth</b>	Rathnapura (Sabaragamuwa province, Sri Lanka), 14 <sup>th</sup> July 1981,	
<b>4</b>	<b>Nationality</b>	Sri Lankan	
<b>5</b>	<b>E-mail</b>	sunandaruh@gmail.com	
<b>6</b>	<b>Education / Professional studies</b>		
	Dates (from-to)	Institution	Degree/diploma
	2004-2008	University of Ruhuna, SL	BSc specialized in Botany
	2009-2011	Vrije Universiteit, Brussels, Belgium	M.Sc in Ecological Marine Management

	2013-2018	Vrije Universiteit, Brussels, Belgium	PhD in Stress Plant Physiology	
<b>7</b>	<b>Language skills</b> Grade skill 1-5 (1 = basic, 5 = excellent, * = mother tongue)			
	Language	Speaking	Reading	Writing
	English	4	5	4
	Sinhala*	5	5	5
	Tamil	3	2	2
<b>8</b>	<b>Membership of professional bodies</b>			
	Committee member of Ministry of Environment, established for Conservation of mangroves and salt marshes in Sri Lanka.			
<b>9</b>	<b>Other Skills</b>			
	Biostatistician, Ecological modeller			
<b>10</b>	<b>Name of organisation currently working for and Present position in the organisation</b>	University of Ruhuna, Wellamadama, Matara, Sri Lanka Senior Lecturer, Department of Botany		
<b>11</b>	<b>Years with the organisation</b>	2012 to present		
<b>12</b>	<b>Long-term experience in selected countries/territories</b>			
	Country	Date	Details	
	<b>Belgium</b>	2009-2018	Master degree and Ph.D degree	
<b>13</b>	<b>Professional experience record</b>			
	Location	Date	Organisation	
1	Malaysia	2017	Heriot-Watt University	
	Position	Trainee		
	Responsibilities	Study the marginalized communities in Malaysia and use of that knowledge in peace building, mutual understanding and respect		
<b>14</b>	<b>Publications</b>			
	Number of publications in peer-reviewed journals			
	09			
	10 publications that are most representative in the field of tropical biodiversity and ecosystems			
	2014 1. Dissanayake NP., Madarasinghe SK., <b>Kodikara KAS.</b> , Jayatissa LP., Perera AJD, Koedam N. and Dahdouh-Guebas F. (2014) Preliminary study on the propagule dependency of <i>Rhizophora</i> seedlings. Journal of the Department of Wildlife Conservation - ISSN 1800-1777. (2): 141-151.			
	2015			

	<p>2. Dissanayake NP., <b>Kodikara KAS.</b>, Vithanage DS., Krishnarajah SA., Rubasinghe MK., Jayatissa LP., Dayananda TG. (2015) Genetic relationship of Sri Lanakan <i>Exacum trinervium</i> complex based on Random Amplified Polymorphic DNA technique. WILDLANKA Vol. 3(3):133 – 138.</p> <p>3. Dissanayake NP., <b>Kodikara KAS.</b>, Vithanage DS., Krishnarajah SA., Rubasinghe MK., Dayananda TG. (2015) Effects of 6-Benzylaminopurine (BAP) Treatment on Seed Germination and Seedling Vigour of Endemic Herb <i>Exacum trinervium</i> L. in Sri Lanka: Conservation strategy. Rohana Journal of University of Ruhuna (ISSN: 2345-9387). (3):14-20.</p> <p>2016</p> <p>4. Jayatissa LP, Kodikara KAS, Dissanayake NP, Satyanarayana B (2016). Post-Tsunami Assessment of Coastal Vegetation, with the View to Protect Coastal Areas from Ocean Surges in Sri Lanka. 47-64, in Tsunamis and Earthquakes in Coastal Environments. Santiago-Fandiño, V., Tanaka, H., Spiske, M. (Eds.) ISBN 978-3-319-28528-3 Springer</p> <p>2017</p> <p>5. Satyanarayana B., Van der Stocken T., Rans G., <b>Kodikara KAS.</b>, Ronsmans G., Jayatissa LP., Mohd-Lokman H., Koedam N., Dahdouh-Guebas F. (2017) Island-wide coastal vulnerability assessment of Sri Lanka reveals that sand dunes, planted trees and natural vegetation may play a role as potential barriers against ocean surges. <i>Journal of Global Ecology and Conservation</i> 12:144-157.</p> <p>6. <b>Kodikara KAS</b>, Jayatissa LP, Huxham M, Farid Dahdouh-Guebas, Nico Koedam (2017). The effects of salinity on growth and survival of mangrove seedlings changes with age. <i>Journal of Acta Botanica Brasilica</i> 30(4):521-531.</p> <p>7. <b>Kodikara KAS</b>, Mukherjee N., Jayatissa LP., Dahdouh-Guebas F., Koedam N (2017). Have mangrove restoration projects worked? An in-depth study in Sri Lanka. <i>Journal of Restoration Ecology</i> 25(5):705-716.</p> <p>2018</p> <p>8. <b>Kodikara KAS.</b>, Madarasinghe SK., Sripal DDN., Ranasinghe P., Jayatissa LP. (2018). Ethno-botanical approach for controlling some selected invasive alien species (IAS) in southern coastal area of Sri Lanka: Globally worth management strategy. <i>Journal of the Department of Wildlife Conservation</i> 6(2):53-65.</p> <p>9. Dissanayake NP., <b>Kodikara KAS.</b>, Premachandra S., Jayatissa LP. (2018). Structural and functional responses of xylem in <i>Rhizophora mucronata</i> Lam. seedlings under drought and hypersaline conditions. <i>Journal of Ruhuna Science</i> 9(1):3-31.</p>		
<b>15</b>	<b>Number of conference presentations (between brackets invited contributions)</b>		
	International : 05, National : 02 & Invited talks : 03		
<b>16</b>	<b>Most important awards</b>		
	Award	Award date	Issuing organisation
1	L.C. De Silva Memorial Gold medal	2009	University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka
2	The best innovation (Biology section)	2014	University of Ruhuna, Matara, Sri Lanka